churches is certainly very great; but more study might advantageously be given to the subject. Many of our architects appear to keep a design stereotyped, to be administered as occasion offers.

At *Ashley Down*, near Bristol, a large asylum is being erected at a cost of 10,000*l.* for a sect known as Mullerites. Messrs. Foster are the architects. In the suburbs of Bristol, building is going on to a considerable extent, and some new churches, at Kingswood and elsewhere, are talked of.

A church of Italian character is now a novelty, and travellers who see a lofty campanile of stone in that style rising in Stall-street, *Bath*, learn with surprise that it is for St. James's Church, which is being restored and enlarged. So far as we could judge of it in an incomplete state, it is not likely to aid in leading again to a more general use of the style for ecclesiastical purposes. Mr. Manners is the architect.

Bath, beautiful as ever, is not frequented as it was: houses are to be found empty in all directions. With the convenience of the railway and its own natural charms and advantages, it surprises us that it is not taken possession of by the onewhile inhabitants of Hackney, Highgate, and other places, once a journey from the metropolis, who would still keep a little distance from London.

St. Mathew's Church, at Widcombe, seen from the railway station, appears finished; and there is a new church upon the hill on the Lansdown side, St. Stephens, with a square tower.

For the curious west front of the *Abbey Church*, there appears to be little hope: the sculpture is now nearly indistinguishable. The walls of the church inside appear to be even more disfigured by tablets and incongruous monuments than when we were last there, though then there seemed scarcely room for an inch of propriety to find admittance.

The old bridge here is to be widened by iron brackets on each side, supporting a footway; workmen have already commenced the work. Report told us of a new Wesleyan chapel of pointed architecture in King-street, to accommodate 1,200 persons; and further, that Mr. Beckford's tower and the grounds around are to be appropriated as a cemetery for the parish of Walcot.

We met a man of fortune in Bath, and an educated man too, who asked us, with a serious desire to obtain information, if the Abbey Church was what we called *Ionic or Corinthian?*

Alack! alack! ignorance of even the leading principles of architecture is no disgrace.

AWARDS OF OFFICIAL REFEREES.

ENLARGEMENT OF BUILDINGS.

With regard to a certain building, in part coach-houses and stabling, and in other part constituting a large warehouse for furniture, carriages, and goods, in Upper Montagu-street, occupied by Mr. Dent; the district surveyor of Marylebone considering it of the warehouse class, laid an information to the effect, that without notice to him, it had been "altered and enlarged to an extent exceeding 200,000 cubic feet, the said building having no proper divisions or party-walls separating the same into divisions less than 200,000 cubic feet, and being inclosed in part with quartering and boards."

The referees awarded, with regard to the alleged irregularity, "that inasmuch as the premises in question are used for the purposes of keeping on sale and selling furniture, carriages, and other goods, and not for warehousing, or storing, or manufacturing any kind of materials or goods, or for any other of the purposes of buildings of the second or warehouse class, within the meaning of the Metropolitan Buildings Act, the rules of Schedule D., Part 4, of the said Act, with regard to buildings of the second or warehouse class exceeding 200,000 cubic feet, are not applicable thereto; but inasmuch as the original premises of the said John Dent, belonging to the first or dwelling-house class, have been, since the said Act came into operation, enlarged and extended by uniting therewith certain other premises, not formerly in the same occupation, by openings made through the wall which formerly separated such premises, so that the premises occupied by the said John Dent do now greatly exceed fourteen squares in area, without obtaining the certificate of the official referees, that the stability and security from fire of such premises would not be endangered thereby, and without giving notice to the district surveyor, we do hereby determine and award that the works in question are contrary to the said Act, and that notice thereof ought to have been given to the district surveyor."

The owner's surveyor having submitted a plan shewing the openings that were to be bricked up, or to be fitted with iron-doors, the referees certified that if the arrangements were made as proposed, and "if the party-walls all round the premises of the said John Dent be carried up to the height required by schedule D, part 3, of the said Act, above the roofs or gutters adjoining thereto, wherever such party-walls are not now so carried up," the district surveyor would be justified in making no further objection to the works in question.

In respect of an expressed intention on the part of the occupier to convert his premises into a bazaar similar to that known as the "Baker-street Bazaar," they declared their opinion, "that any building so used, would thereby be converted into a building of the third or public building class, and as to it all the conditions prescribed in the said Act with regard to buildings of the same rate of the third, or public building class, must be fulfilled as if such building had been originally built of such class (that is to say, the rules as to fire-proof accesses and stairs, and the thickness of the walls and the security of the structure) subject, nevertheless, to such modifications as shall be sanctioned by the official referees upon special supervision thereof.

OVERHANGING ADJOINING GROUND.

With regard to a dwelling-house in Inverness-road, Paddington, belonging to Mr. Trigg, the adjoining owner, Mr. Bernasconi, laid an information to the following effect, namely, that "the inclosing wall of the said house, which is next the premises No. 17, and belonging to the said G. V. Bernasconi, has been built partly on his ground, being (with his consent) on the site of the original party-fence wall, and such inclosing wall is in his opinion a party-wall, and he, being of such opinion at the time the said inclosing wall was being erected, objected to the same being built with an *overhanging roof*, instead of with a proper parapet against the same; but the said George Trigg, the owner and builder thereof, did not and has not heeded such objection, but has built the said house and the said inclosing wall with the eaves or cornice (which is principally of wood) overhanging the ground belonging to the said G. V. Bernasconi, whereby they are injured, and are threatened with injury."

At a hearing, it was admitted that the eaves or cornice so overhanging was formed by the wood rafters, covered with sheet iron on the soffit, and it was affirmed that Mr. Bernasconi had hitherto made no objection to the projection in question: but Mr. Bernasconi stating that he had objected at the time the projection was first put up, the official referees intimated that if they considered the question of consent important to the case, they would give the parties an opportunity to bring evidence thereon, but otherwise would make their award on the question whether such projection was or was not conformable to the Act. The referees awarded,—That inasmuch as the cornice to the overhanging roof of the house, No. 17, has been built with or added to the said house, on the face of an external wall thereof (whether such wall be a party-wall or not), so as to overhang the ground belonging to another owner, such cornice is contrary to the rules of the Act; and further that, inasmuch as such cornice is not built of the same materials as are by the said Act directed to be used for building external walls, or of such other proper and sufficient materials as the official referees may approve or permit in such situation, the same are in this respect also contrary to the said Act; and they declared, "that if the wall from which the said cornice projects has been built upon the site of the former party-fence-wall, between the premises in question, as alleged in the said requisition, the same is a party-wall, and must be carried up and remain of the height and thickness required by the said Act, in schedule D, part 3, above the roof or gutter adjoining thereto, and that if such wall be an external wall only, and stand entirely upon the ground of the said George Trigg (except the projection of its footing on one side), such wall ought nevertheless to be carried up, and remain as a parapet, of the height and thickness required by the said Act in schedule D, part 2."

DECORATION OF THE FRENCH OPERA HOUSE.

The miscellaneous press of Paris are loud in their praises of the decorations just now completed in the "Salle de l' Opera," by M. Cambon, but some of the artistical periodicals think it necessary to object to the loud beating of drums and blowing of trumpets on the occasion. Much has been done, considering the very short time the works have occupied, only six weeks; but the result, looked at as a work of art, is simply a happy "improvisation," say they, agreeable, and nothing more. The ceiling has been entirely repainted: Orpheus presenting the celebrated musicians to the gods of Olympus, is the subject,—a happy one, all will admit, but, according to our authorities, only indifferently well treated. The fronts of the boxes are painted by M. de Zara. Sirens and garlands of flowers, on a gold ground, fill the panels of the upper tier. Gold predominates in the decoratinn,—too much so, for some,—yet, amidst all the glitter, ten main Corinthian columns have been allowed to remain covered with the wounds and bruises of previous campaigns, which has raised the ire of some of the critics. Want of sufficient light and the grey colour of the paper with which the boxes are hung, are also complained of. M. Rohault was the architect employed.

GEOMETRY OF THE SQUARE.*

Problem.—*To construct a square that shall be equal in area to any proposed right lined figure, that is, to convert any given right-lined figure into a square containing an equal area.*

Example.—Let ABCD (fig. 12) be any given figure whatever; it is required to convert the given right-lined figure, ABCD, into a square containing an equivalent area.

Construction. — Place the given figure, ABCD, in a position the most convenient for the paper on which it is to be drawn, and join A and C, the opposite angles of the figure, by the diagonal, AC, dividing it into the two triangles, ABC and ADC. Bisect AC, the common base of the triangles, in the point P, and through the vertices B and D draw the straight lines NM and GL respectively parallel to the diagonal AC. Through A, one extremity, and P, the middle point of the diagonal AC, draw the straight lines NAI and BPL respectively perpendicular to AC, and extended both ways to meet the parallels NM and GL in the points N, I, and M, L, thereby forming the rectangular parallelogram NILM equal to the given figure, ABCD.

On I, as a centre, with IL as a radius, describe the circular quadrant, LmK, meeting NI produced, in K, and making IK equal to IL, so that NK is equal to the sum of the sides of the parallelogram, NI and IL, extended in the same straight line. Bisect NK in H, and on H as a centre, with HK or HN as a radius, describe the semicircle KGN meeting LI, the side of the parallelogram produced, in G; then is IG the side of the square which is equal in area to the given figure ABCD. Upon the straight line, IG, thus determined, construct the square IGFE, and it will be equal to the

* See pages 209, 279, and 447 ante.

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